

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 01558 041241Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OES-06
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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6871
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1558

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH BUKOVSKY

1. AT A SOCIAL OCCASION MARCH 3, SOVIET AMBASSADOR
PILOTOVICH TOOK ME ASIDE. HE SAID HE WAS "SHOCKED" BY
THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH BUKOVSKY. "WE CONSIDER
THIS MAN A CRIMINAL," HE SAID. I SAID THAT, IF HE WAS
A CRIMINAL, I WOULD EXPECT HIM TO HAVE BEEN TRIED AND
IMPRISONED. INSTEAD, HE HAD BEEN EXCHANGED FOR A
POLITICAL PRISONER, SO IT LOOKED AS THOUGH BUKOVSKY,
TOO, WERE REGARDED BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AS A
POLITICAL PRISONER. PILOTOVICH SAID BUKOVSKY HAS
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 01558 041241Z

"PLANNED A TERRORIST ACT." I SAID THAT ALEXANDER
HERZEN AND OTHER NINETEENTH-CENTURY EXILES HAD ALSO BEEN
CALLED TERRORISTS.

2. PILOTOVICH SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO ARGUE ABOUT
THE FACTS OF THIS CASE; WE PROBABLY COULD NOT AGREE
ON THEM. WHAT CONCERNED HIM, RATHER, WAS THAT THE EX-

CELLENT OPPORTUNITY THAT NOW EXISTED FOR PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS, AND FIRST AND FOREMOST ON DISARMAMENT AND THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS, MIGHT BE LOST. IT WOULD BE A PITY, HE SAID, IF THIS HAPPENED. "WE SHOULD NOT WAIT FOUR OR EIGHT MORE YEARS TO RESUME OUR PROGRESS," HE SAID. "WHO CAN TELL WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE MEANWHILE?" WE MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENCES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. EVEN HERE, HE SAID IT WAS INTERESTING THAT THE USSR HAD SIGNED THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHILE THE US HAS NOT. BUT THE MAIN POINT WAS TO MOVE FORWARD ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND NOT LOSE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE "SOME QUIXOTIC TANGENT" IS PURSUED.

3. I SAID WE HAD EVERY INTENTION OF WORKING FOR PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE THAT CLEAR. IN PARTICULAR, WE HOPED SOON TO RESUME TALKING ABOUT SALT AS WELL AS OTHER DISARMAMENT-RELATED SUBJECTS. THE CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED HERE.

4. COMMENT: PILOTOVICH WAS CLEARLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. HE SPOKE DELIBERATELY AND ALMOST AVOWEDLY MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER, RESTRAINING HIS NORMAL BRUSQUENESS. EVEN HIS REMARK ABOUT A "QUIZOTIC TNAGENT" WAS DELIVERED WITH A SELF-DEPRECATORY SMILE. END COMMENT

DAVIES

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